

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Sagart à Pabaigh

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 739. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 435 corresponds to Litir 739.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun t-sagart à Pabaigh a bha san Eilean Sgitheanach. Bha e a' gabhail fois ann an innis sa choille. Bha **bachall** prìseil aige. Thàinig sìthichean. Dh'ìarr an ceannard gum beannaicheadh an sagart iad.

‘Cò sibh?’ dh'fhaighnich an sagart.

‘Sìthichean,’ fhreagair am bodach. ‘Tha sinn ag iarraidh oirbh ùrnaigh a dhèanamh air ar son. Cha d' fhuair sinn riamh beannachadh Dhè.’

Dh'èirich an sagart. ‘Ùrnaigh a dhèanamh air ur son?!’ thuirt e. ‘Cha dèan mi sin a-chaoidh. Do pheacaich mhòra mar a tha sibhse, chan eil mathanas ann.’

Thàinig cailleadh bheag air adhart. ‘Tha aoibhneas ann an Nèamh,’ thuirt i, ‘mu aon pheacach a tha a' gabhail aithreachas. An neach a thèid a lorg Dhè, cha tèid a dhiùltadh.’

Chuir faclan na caillich dragh air an t-sagart. Ach, fhathast, bha e a' creidsinn gur ann a dh'Ifirinn a bhuineadh na sìthichean. ‘B' fheàrr leam gum biodh mo bhachall na chraoibh a-rithist seach gum faigheadh sibhse mathanas Dhè,’ thuirt e. **Thallaibh às mo shealladh!**

Agus theich na sìthichean. Ged a bha e deimhinne na theachdaireachd, bha teagamh ann an inntinn an t-sagairt. Mhèoraich e air aodann a' bhodaich agus aodann na caillich nuair a dhiùlt e na tagraidhean aca. Bha inntinn làn smuaintean agus dhìochuimhnich e a bhachall a thoirt leis nuair a dh'fhalbh e. Lean e air tron choille. Chuala e caoineadh nan sìthichean. Bha am fuaim air feadh na coille.

Bha an sagart air an rathad a thadhail air teaghlach agus ràinig e am bothan aca. Bhaistich e an leanabh ùr aca. Agus thug e rabhadh do phàrantan a' phàiste a bhith air am faiceall oir bha sìthichean anns an nàbachd.

Chuimhnich e a bhachall. Rinn fear an taighe bata ùr dha de dh'fhiodh-uinnsinn. Ach bha an seann bhachall prìseil don t-sagart agus chuir e roimhe a lorg.

Dh'fhàg e an taigh, agus thill e don innis anns a' choille. Ràinig e i ach cha robh sgeul air a' bhachall. Far an do dh'fhàg an sagart a bhachall, bha craobh-uinnsinn mhòr air èirigh.

Thuit an sagart do a ghlùinean. Rinn e ùrnaigh airson ùine mhòr. Bha e a' cuimhneachadh na thuirt e ris na sìthichean. Bha e a' gabhail aithreachas. Bha e a' creidsinn gun robh Dia air bruidhinn ris. Ghairm e air na daoine beaga ach cha do thill iad. Ghluais e tron choille. Chuala e caoineadh nan sìthichean ach cha tigeadh iad faisg air.

Thill an sagart a Phabaigh far an d' fhuair e cead an t-eilean fhàgail airson a bhith a' fuireach anns a' choille. Rinn e searmonan a latha 's a dh'oidhche do dhuine sam bith a dh'èisteadh ris. Agus do dh'ainmhidhean is eòin is craobhan. B' e an teachdaireachd aige 'mathanas Dhè agus mar a gheibh duine sam bith e'. Mean air mhean sguir an caoineadh sa choille, ach chan fhaca an sagart na daoine beaga tuilleadh.

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Faclan na Litreach: Pabaigh: *Pabay*; sìthichean: *fairies*; ùrnaigh: *prayer*; mheòraich e: *he contemplated*; caoineadh: *wailing*; nàbacht: *neighbourhood*; craobh-uinnsinn: *ash tree*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a' gabhail fois ann an innis sa choille: *resting in a clearing in the forest*; dh'iarr an ceannard gum beannaicheadh an sagart iad: *their leader asked that the priest bless them*; cò sibh?: *who are you?*; tha sinn ag iarraidh oirbh ùrnaigh a dhèanamh air ar son: *we want you to pray [make a prayer] for us*; cha d' fhuair sinn riamh beannachadh Dhè: *we've never received the blessing of God*; cha dèan mi sin a-chaidh: *I'll never do that*; do pheacaich mhòra mar a tha sibhse, chan eil mathanas ann: *for terrible sinners like you there is no forgiveness*; leig am bodach beag osna ach cha tuirt e smid: *the wee old man sighed but he said nothing*; tha aoibhneas ann an Nèamh: *there is joy in Heaven*; aon pheacach a tha a' gabhail aithreachas: *one sinner repenting*; an neach a thèid a lorg Dhè, cha tèid a dhiùltadh: *the person who goes in search of God, he won't be refused*; chuir faclan na caillich dragh air an t-sagart: *the old woman's words upset the priest*; gur ann a dh'Ifrinn a bhuineadh na sìthichean: *that the fairies belonged to Hell*; b' fheàrr leam gum biodh mo bhachall na chraoibh a-rithist: *I'd sooner have my staff becoming a tree again*; seach gum faigheadh sibhse mathanas Dhè: *than that you would receive God's forgiveness*; nuair a dhiùlt e na tagraidhean aca: *when he refused their pleas*; dhìochuimhnich e a bhachall a thoirt leis: *he forgot to take his staff with him*; bhaistich e an leanabh ùr aca: *he baptised their new baby*; a bhith air am faiceall: *to be careful*; bata ùr de dh'fhiodh-uinnsinn: *a new stick of ash wood*; chuir e roimhe a lorg: *he decided to look for it*; bha e a' gabhail aithreachas: *he was regretful*; ghairm e air na daoine beaga: *he called for the little people*; far an d' fhuair e cead an t-eilean fhàgail airson a bhith a' fuireach anns a' choille: *where he got permission to leave the island in order to live in the forest*; rinn e searmonan a latha 's a dh'oidhche: *he gave sermons night and day*; do dhuine sam bith a dh'èisteadh ris: *to any person that would listen to him*; mean air mhean sguir an caoineadh: *slowly the wailing ceased*; chan fhaca an sagart na daoine beaga tuilleadh: *the priest never again saw the little people*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Bha **bachall** prìseil aige: *he had a valuable staff*. *Bachall can mean a shepherd's crook or a stick or staff used by a non Church person but its Latin origin (in baculum) gives away that its original primary meaning in Gaelic was likely that of a crozier or a staff belonging to a bishop or priest.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **Thallaibh às mo shealladh!**: *get out of my sight!* (plural)

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoineachadh le MG ALBA